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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 3740, APRIL 11, 3 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 3740, REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 422, LONDON 834,
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LONDON FOR HILLENBRAND

FRENCH DELEGATION TO FOUR-POWER WORKING GROUP MEETING
LONDON WILL BE COMPOSED OF LALOY, JURGENSEN, FROMENT-
MEURICE, RAIMOND, PLUS MINISTRY OF DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE.
LEGENBRE WILL JOIN GROUP FOR SECOND WEEK, REPLACING
JURGENSEN.

BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH LALOY, JURGENSEN, FROMENT-
MEURICE, WE BELIEVE FRENCH APPROACH TO WORKING GROUP
SESSION WILL REFLECT FOLLOWING VIEWS:

1. PRINCIPAL OBJECTION OF FRENCH TO U.S. " PLAN" AT PRESENT
RELATES TO POWERS GRANTED TO COMMISSION REPRESENTING
TWO GERMANIES IN INTERIM PERIOD, AND TO METHOD OF SELECTING
COMMITTEE MEMBERS. ECHOING FEDREP VIEWS EXPRESSED BY
BRENTANO IN WASHINGTON, FRENCH NOW FEEL PRESENT FIELD OF
ACTIVITY CONTEMPLATED FOR COMMISSION IS FAR TOO BROAD,
AND THEY WOULD RESTRICT SCOPE TO PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS
AND TO FACILITATING CERTAIN CONTACTS BETWEEN EAST AND
WEST GERMANY. ALSO, THEY SEE DANGERS IN RESORTING TO LANDER
ELECTIONS TO SELECT REPRESENTATIVES, SINCE EASTERN LANDERS
ARE MYTH IN ANY CASE AND WESTERN LANDERS MIGHT PRODUCE
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY, WHICH PROBABLY WOULD CONTAIN
ELEMENTS FAVORABLE TO COMMUNISTS.

2. WHILE FRENCH WILL NOT HAVE THEIR OWN VERSION OF FULL
REVISED PLAN TO PRESENT, THEY WILL PROBABLY HAVE NEW
LANGUAGE TO SUGGEST ON FUNCTION AND METHOD OF SELECTION

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OF COMMISSION. IN ADDITION, THEY WILL HAVE NEW LANGUAGE ON SECURITY PROVISIONS. ACCORDING TO JURGENSEN, FRENCH ACCEPT MOST OF PRESENT L ODUAGE AND HAVE NOTHING "STARTLING" TO SUGGEST, BUT THEY WILL PROPOSE ADDITION OF OVER-LAPPING RADAR SYSTEM IN SECURITY SECTION.

3. ON DISARMAMENT, FRENCH PROPOSE INCLUDING RATHER VAGUE MENTION OF DISARMAMENT IN PREAMBLE, STATING THAT, IF PRINCIPLE OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION ACCEPTED ON BASIS WESTERN PLAN, FOUR POWERS AGREE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS ON STAGED DISARMAMENT INCLUDING CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR ARMS. WHILE FRENCH WOULD APPARENTLY AGREE TO MENTION OF REGIONAL DISARMAMENT PLANS, THEY WOULD TIE THIS IN WITH PROGRESS TOWARD GLOBAL DISARMAMENT AND SETTLEMENT OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

4. FRENCH BELIEVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACE TREATY SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN PACKAGE PROPOSAL. THEY CONTINUE TO OPPOSE PRESENTATION OF SEPARATE PEACE TREATY TEXT.

5. ON BERLIN, FRENCH BELIEVE PRESENT PAPER GOES QUITE FAR ENOUGH, AND THEY ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO EXPLORE SOLUTIONS BEYOND THOSE ALREADY SUGGESTED.

6. ACCORDING TO LALOY, CONVERSATIONS HE HAS HAD RECENTLY WITH SOVIET EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS LEAD HIM TO FEEL THAT WE SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT, RATHER THAN REJECTING WEST'S PACKAGE PLAN IN TOTO, SOVIETS MAY BEGIN TO NIBBLE AT IT AND SEIZE ON PORTIONS OF IT AS SUSCEPTIBLE OF NEGOTIATION. IF THEY DO SO, IT MAY BECOME DIFFICULT FROM PUBLIC OPINION STANDPOINT TO HOLD TO "PACKAGE" CONCEPT. FRENCH BELIEVE THIS POSSIBILITY REINFORCES NEED TO COUCH WESTERN PROPOSALS IN TERMS SUFFICIENTLY CONSERVATIVE SO AS NOT TO EMBARRASS US IF SOVIETS TAKE US UP ON SOME ELEMENTS THEREOF.

7. FRENCH ARE MORE WORRIED THAN EVER ABOUT BRITISH "FLEXIBILITY". THEY APPEAR CONVINCED THAT, WITHOUT RESTRAINING HAND, BRITISH WOULD BE PREPARED TO SELL OUT ON BERLIN, RECOGNIZE GDR, AND SET UP DISENGAGEMENT ZONE IN EUROPE WITHOUT TYING IT TO REUNIFICATION. FRENCH ARE QUITE FRANK IN SAYING THAT THEY HOPE TO ACT AS BRAKE ON WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE DANGEROUS BRITISH SOFTNESS, AND THEY URGE THAT WE JOIN WITH THEM IN THIS EFFORT.

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